Mahoroba no Hibi
Chapter 02
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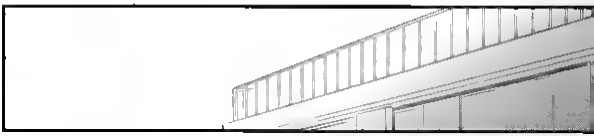
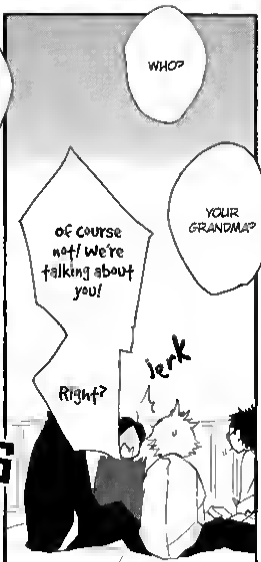
平眞ミツナガ
MITSUNAGA HIRAMA
まほろばの日々
Day Two
Days in Arcadia
It's sad. It's sad, isn't it?
Still, more than that, it's sweet, isn't it?



TALKING TO MYSELF ALL THE TIME?
munch
munch

IT'S HAPPENING QUITE FREQUENTLY NOW
BUT WHAT BOTHERED ME MOST IS THAT
Well, I haven't really noticed it though.
I WASN'T BOTHERED ABOUT IT AT FIRST,
BUT IT'S GETTING WORSE!


WHO?
YOUR GRANDMA?
Of course not! We're talking about you!
Right?
Jerk

HUH?
SOMEHOW, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE TALKING TO SOMEONE!
It's true!
SERIOUS

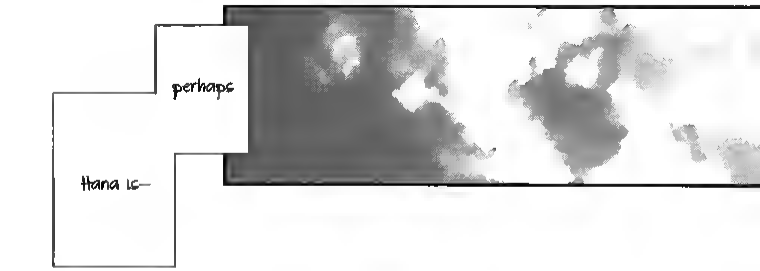
Frankly, I think so, too.
...
REALLY?
YEAH
Taka has been talking to himself very frequently
mumble
mumble
Just what have I been doing?!

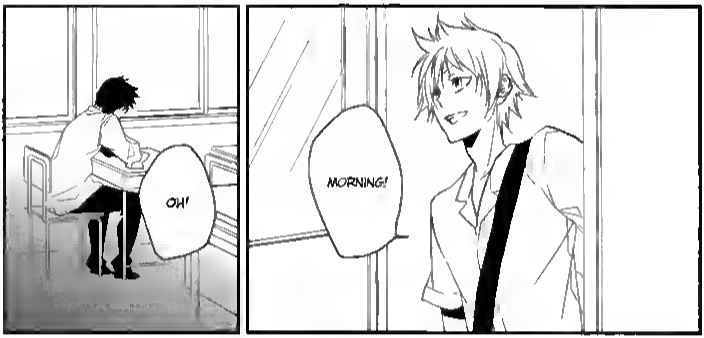
It's usually when he's relaxing at home.
But he seldom does it in front of others
Well, he has the habit of mumbling to himself when he's focused.
Oh, Biology's up next
DING
DONG
DANG
TAKA, WE SHOULD GET GOING
'KAY

TAKA, LET'S GO!
Heavy!
PECK
WHAT?
THUMP
THUD
THUD
THUD
WE HAVE LARS TODAY?
I THINK SO?
HUH? SOMETHING WRONG?
OH,
NAH, IT'S NOTHING
...

SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND TODAY?
YEAH.
ABOUT TAKA?
YEAH.
YOUR FEELINGS.
YOU SHOULD LET TAKA KNOW ABOUT THEM SOON
Huh?
No!
PANIC
PANIC
WITH THE STATE HE'S IN RIGHT NOW. HE'LL GET EVEN MORE MESSED UP IF I CONFESSED.
Rustle
EVEN THOUGH I'M ALWAYS BY HIS SIDE I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.
ACTUALLY, INSTEAD OF THAT,
IT'S MORE LIKE--

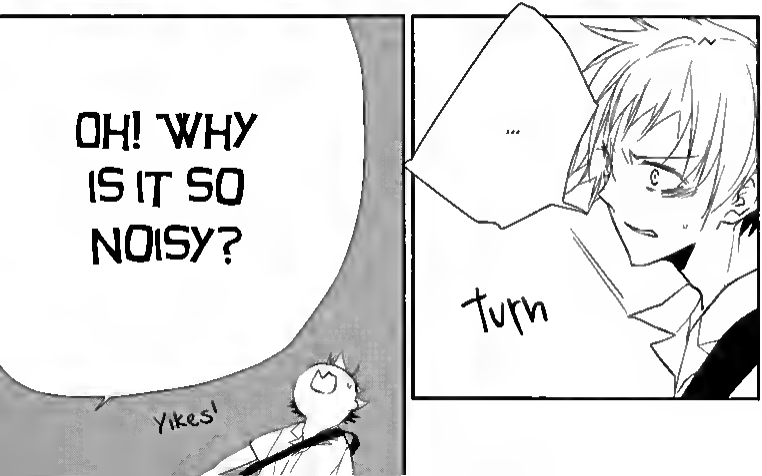
I'M
WHAT?
...
YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD TELL HIM.
YOU'RE—
AFTER ALL,
I'LL KEEP THAT
SECRET FOR NOW.
HUH?!
At that moment,
I thought that
Come on, what's that about?


perhaps
Hana is—


OH!
MORNING!

TO THINK THAT HE WAS PRETTY COOL—
I NOTICED THAT HE'S GOTTEN GLOOMIER RECENTLY
IS IT TRUE THAT HE TALKS TO THIN AIR?
whisper
whisper
whisper
TAKA, MOR—

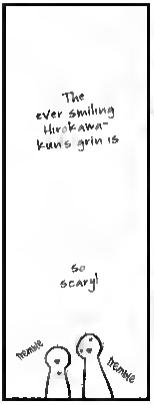
SHUT THE HELL UP, ALL OF YOU!!
FLINCH
EXPLOSION


OH! WHY IS IT SO NOISY?
Yikes!
...
Turn

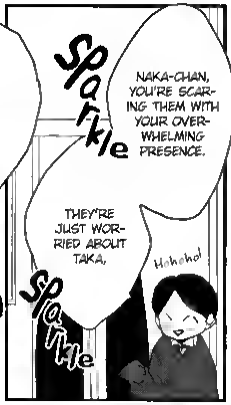
TETSU HAS BEEN VERY TIRED RECENTLY, SO WHAT WERE YOU GUYS SAYING ABOUT HIM JUST THEN, HUH?
GLARE

Glare
He's huge!
NAKAMURA
FUME
HIROKAWA-KUN

He's
SORRY!
OH
I SEE
angry!


The ever smiling Hirokawa-kun's grin is
so scary!
tremble
tremble

RIGHT?
grin

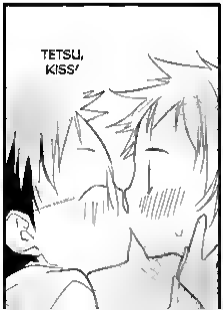

Sparkle
NAKA-CHAN, YOU'RE SCARING THEM WITH YOUR OVERWHELMING PRESENCE.
THEY'RE JUST WORRIED ABOUT TAKA.
Hehehe!
Sparkle

Naka-chan,
Hiro!

TETSU

TETSU—

TETSU—



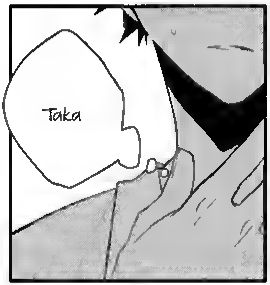
But

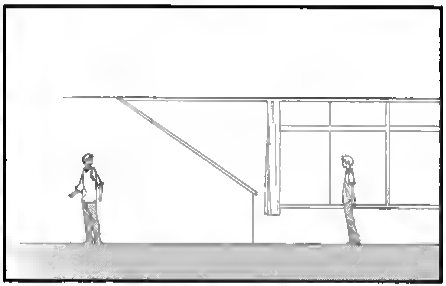
...AND AT A TIME LIKE THIS--
Ever since that incident, Taka has been--
AH, SOR--
...

SLAM
DAMN IT!!
pant
pant
WHY?!

glare

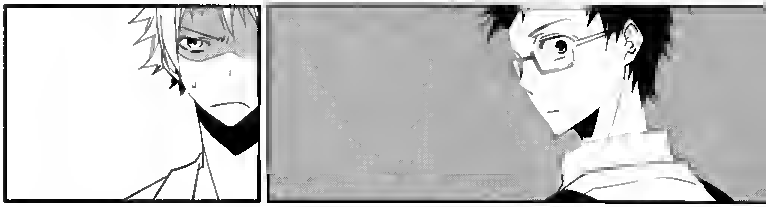
TAKA?


Taka



Oh

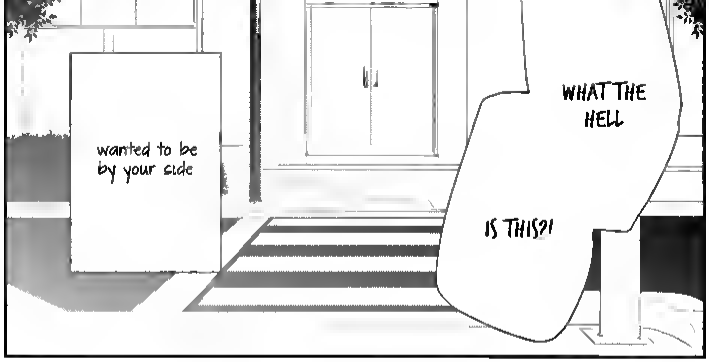
TAKA!
There's no one here
Maybe now would be a good time?



IT'S AROUND HERE
NOW
TAKA, LISTEN—
IT'S—
HUH?

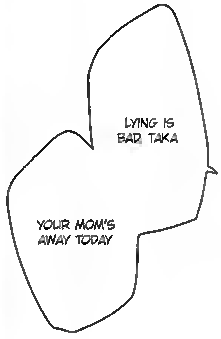
HE'S DEFINITELY SOMEWHERE HERE!
HE'S HERE!
I FEEL HIM!
HE'S—
DASH
?!
TAKA?!
TAKA, WAIT!! THAT'S—
HONK HONK
Urooom
?!

TAKA!!
RUMBLE
Uroom
HONK
ROAR
Taka,
I only
J-JUST


wanted to be by your side
WHAT THE HELL
IS THIS?!

IN THE END YOU SLEPT FOR AN ENTIRE DAY, TAKA.
YOU'RE PROBABLY FEELING OUT OF IT HUH?
MMM
THERE AREN'T MANY STUDENTS LEFT
YOUR MOM'S REALLY PICKING YOU UP? WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT UNTIL SHE COMES?
MM

Make sure you get home safe!


LYING IS BAD, TAKA
YOUR MOM'S AWAY TODAY

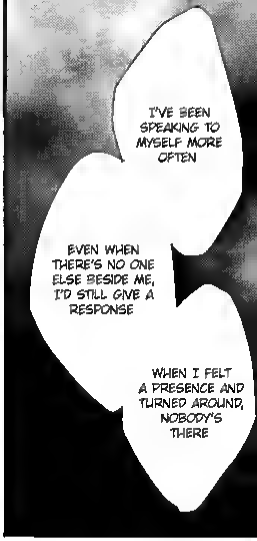
Guess he couldn't hear me, huh?
He's not listening
No

I'M SORRY
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
ARE YOU TIRED? YOU'RE TIRED AREN'T YOU?

JUST
WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING?

I THOUGHT I COULDN'T SLEEP FROM ALL THE ANXIETY
MY BODY TIRES EASILY I HAVE SPLITTING HEADACHES AND MY EARS BUZZ ALL THE TIME
I REALLY THOUGHT IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF THAT
BUT THAT DAY BOTH MY BODY AND THOUGHTS FELT LIGHT ALL OF A SUDDEN
I'M WAS SO SURPRISED
I'VE BEEN FEELING TIRED AND HAPPY FOR NO APPARENT REASON
THEN YESTERDAY, I LOST ALL OF MY ENERGY SO SUDDENLY
AS IF I'VE BEEN HIT BY SOMETHING
EVER SINCE THE DAY I WAS SAVED FROM BEING RAN OVER BY THAT CAR,

WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU—


I'VE BEEN SPEAKING TO MYSELF MORE OFTEN
EVEN WHEN THERE'S NO ONE ELSE BESIDE ME, I'D STILL GIVE A RESPONSE
WHEN I FELT A PRESENCE AND TURNED AROUND, NOBODY'S THERE

I'M—

JUST WHAT THE HELL'S HAPPENING?

GEEZ,

I'M REALLY ALONE.
SUCH A FOOL.
I've always known the truth
TAKA—

COLD?
WHOA!
rustle
rustle
rustle
flap
flap
I'm sorry.
THERE'S A PLACE I WANT TO TAKE YOU TO, TAKA.

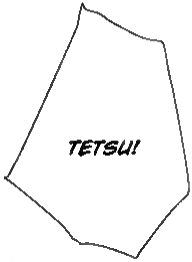
It's all my fault
I'M SURE NOW
I CAN BRING TAKA THERE.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST BY CHANCE,
TO HAVE FOUND A PLACE LIKE THIS ON MY WAY HOME...
WOW!
I HAD NO IDEA A PLACE WITH SUCH WONDERFUL VIEW EXIST HERE!
I CAN SEE THE ENTIRE BEACH FROM HERE

...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SHOW THIS PLACE TO YOU SINCE LONG AGO
I'M GLAD MY WISH CAME TRUE
STOP RIGHT THERE,
LOOK TO YOUR LEFT
OH,
THE FENCE'S BROKEN
WHAT'S THIS?
THERE'S A PATH
GO DOWN
FROM HERE
PERHAPS I SHOULD GO DOWN AND TAKE A LOOK
THAT'S RIGHT
THAT'S RIGHT
U
A collar?
THIS IS
THAT'S—
...
WOW!
HMM?

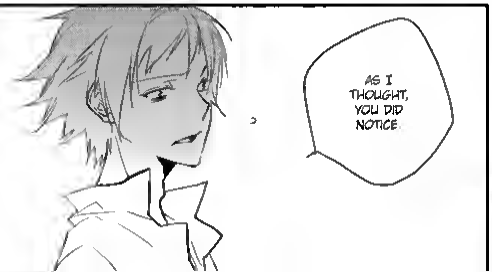
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR PERMISSION.
I JUST FOUND HIM A WHILE AGO WHEN I CAME HERE
WERE YOU HIS OWNER?
THERE WEREN'T ANY IDENTIFICATION ON THE COLLAR SO I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
WAIT, WHAT—
BUT THIS IS A QUIET PLACE WITH A WONDERFUL VIEW, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT—?
HUH?
NO WAY!
FOR ETERNAL REST.

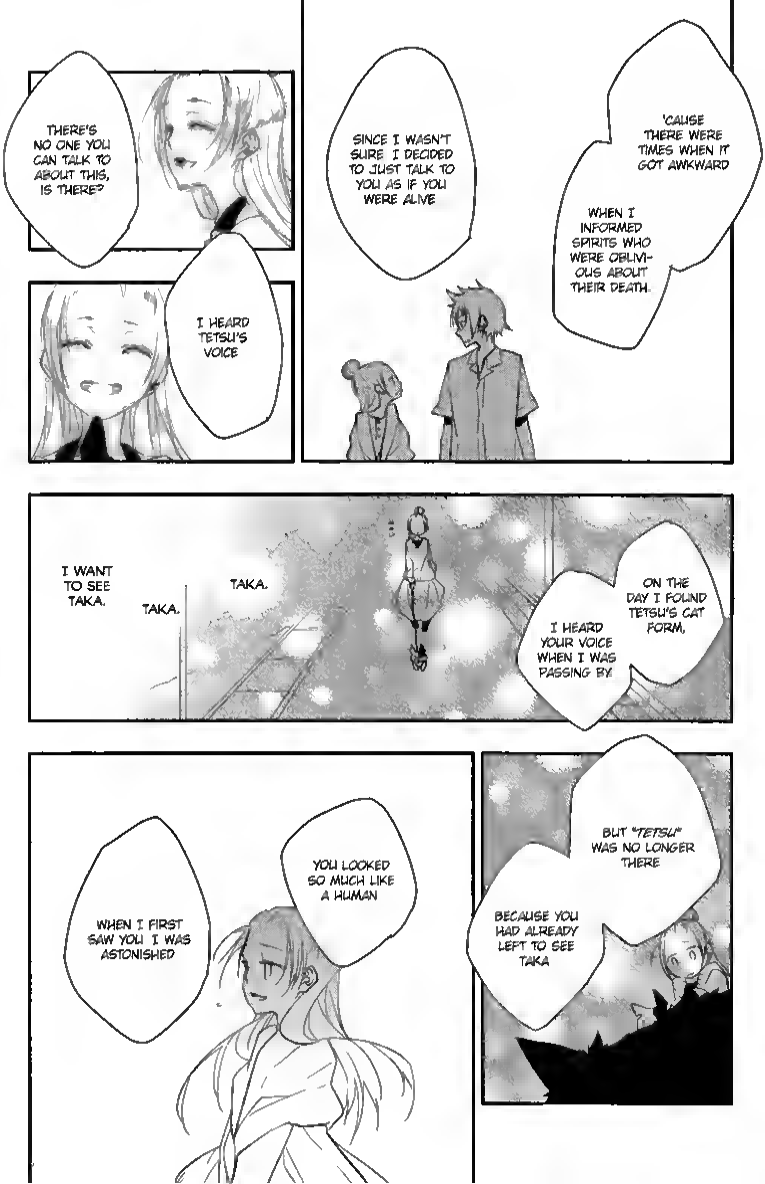
TETSU!!
AH!
TETSU!
UWAH!
WAAAAAAAH!
A-AH!


TETSU!

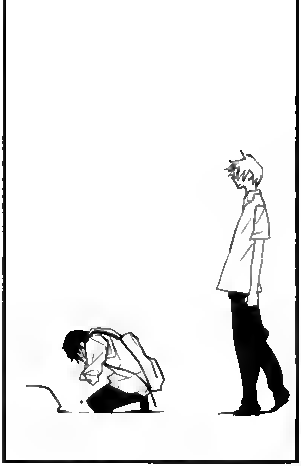
BESIDES, I MANAGED TO HELP YOU OUT A LITTLE
I DON'T HATE IT
I CAN SEE MANY THINGS OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T, AND HAVE BEEN CALLED NAMES FOR THAT.
BUT BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTANDS ME,

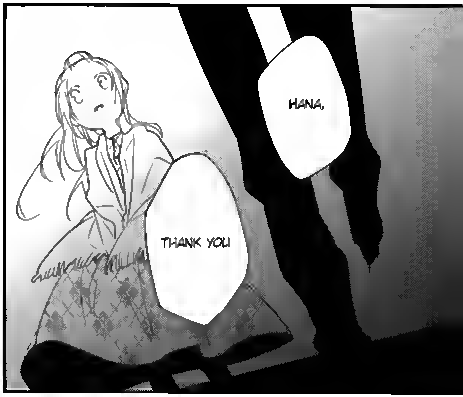
DO YOU REMEMBER I'VE ONCE MENTIONED THAT I'M OFTEN DESCRIBED AS A WEIRD PERSON?
HANA?


AS I THOUGHT, YOU DID NOTICE


THERE'S NO ONE YOU CAN TALK TO ABOUT THIS, IS THERE?
I HEARD TETSU'S VOICE
SINCE I WASN'T SURE I DECIDED TO JUST TALK TO YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALIVE
'CAUSE THERE WERE TIMES WHEN IT GOT AWKWARD
WHEN I INFORMED SPIRITS WHO WERE OBLIVIOUS ABOUT THEIR DEATH.
I WANT TO SEE TAKA.
TAKA.
TAKA.
I HEARD YOUR VOICE WHEN I WAS PASSING BY.
ON THE DAY I FOUND TETSU'S CAT FORM,
WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU I WAS ASTONISHED
YOU LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE A HUMAN
BECAUSE YOU HAD ALREADY LEFT TO SEE TAKA
BUT "TETSU" WAS NO LONGER THERE

SADLY, EVEN THOUGH I TOOK ON THIS FORM, TAKA'S STILL UNABLE TO SEE ME
I WANTED TO TRY TO TALK TO TAKA
BECAUSE HE ALWAYS TOLD ME EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN SCHOOL.
IT SEEMED FUN
I WANTED TO BE PART OF IT, TOO
HOW WAS IT?
TAKA'S WORLD.
EVEN IF I'M NOT AROUND,
TAKA WILL DEFINITELY BE ALRIGHT




HANA,
THANK YOU

BUT
I DON'T WANT YOU TO CRY ANYMORE
TETSU!
AH!
UH...

TAKA
I'M FLATTERED
THAT YOU MISSED ME SO MUCH

I LOVE YOU, TAKA.
SO MUCH MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
AND YOU TOO HAVE SHOWN ME
JUST HOW MUCH YOU LOVED ME.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S DIFFERENT FORMS OF LOVE,
I'VE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE.

TETSU!?
GOOD BYE
THANK YOU.
I'M SORRY.
Are you here?!
YESTERDAY! TODAY! EVEN JUST NOW!!
ALL THE TIME!
EVER SINCE YOU DISAPPEARED, RIGHT?!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN BY MY SIDE
RIGHT?!
TETSU!? TETSU, RIGHT?!
Are you here?!
YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU?! TETSU!!

YEAH
I'M HERE
I'M RIGHT HERE,
TAKA.

END